15 रुपए का चैक और कुछ सब्जियों के बीज दिए जा रहे हैं। जबकि चैक के लिए बैंक में एकाउन्ट खुलवाने के लिए बैंक में पांच सौ रुपए जमा करवाने पड़ते हैं इसलिए कोई किसान इसको लेने नहीं जा रहा है। अगर यह सच है तो इतनी सहायता का औचित्य क्या है, किसानों को राहत देने के लिए क्या कोई दूसरा तरीका नहीं हो सकता ?

श्री अजित सिंह : जो यहां से सहायता के नाम्र्स हैं, ढ़ाई हजार रुपए प्रति हैक्टेयर सिंचित जमीन के लिए हैं। इसी आधार पर प्रदेश सरकार ने जो पैसा मांगा था, वह उन्हें दिया गया था। वे यह पैसा किस तरह डिस्ट्रिब्यूट कर रहे हैं, इसके बारे में जानकारी मिली है। हमने यह सजेस्ट किया है कि पचास रुपए या सौ रुपए से कम के बियरर चैक दिए जाए, अकाउण्ट न खोले जाएं। यह काम प्रदेश सरकार का है कि इसे कैसे बांटना है। हम उन्हें सलाह दे रहे हैं।

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव : सभापति जी, कल ही मुझे किसानों ने इन चैकों और सब्जी के बीज जैसे तोरई, लौकी के बारे में बताया है। क्या यह कोई मजाक हो गया है ? जो पैसा दिया जाता है उसे कम से कम मोनिटर तो कीजिए कि वह कैसे दिया जा रहा है, कैसे नहीं दिया जा रहा है।

श्री अजित सिंह : हम सब लिखते रहते हैं।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, the entire Karnataka State is suffering from drought. They have sent a memorandum for additional assistance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any such memorandum. What is the additional amount they have demanded for?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, for Karnataka, after the Rabi crop, an amount of Rs. 18.47 crores had been released and the additional foodgrains, whatever they have asked for the remaining three months, have been allotted.

Losses of cotton farmers in Orissa

*516. SHRI B.J. PANDA† :

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) total amount of loss suffered by cotton growing farmers during the last drought in Orissa;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B.J. Panda.

(b) whether affected farmers have been compensated out of Central grants; if so, the yardsticks fixed for compensation; and

(c) the minimum support price fixed by Government for farmers who were not able to save their crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Drought conditions prevailed during the month of June and July in the year 2002-03 for which sowing of cotton was affected. As a result the area under cotton came down to 29,490 hectares against 63,250 hectares covered during the previous year. After sowing; the weather was however conducive for cotton crop. No loss of crop was reported during 2002-03, due to drought except reduction in coverage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI B. J. PANDA : Sir, I must express my disappointment with this answer. The hon. Minister has admitted in his answer that due to drought last year, in Orissa, the cotton coverage area is reduced by more than 50 per cent in one year, from 63,000 hectares to 29,000 hectares. Yet, he says that no loss of crop was reported in 2002-03 due to drought, except for reduction in coverage. Sir, if reduction of coverage takes care of 50 per cent, is that not a ground for taking care of the losses to the farmers?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, whatever area was sown, the productivity was not less — this is what the answer says — due to drought, except for reduction in coverage. And, we give assistance, whatever is asked for by the State Government. In this case, they have not asked us for any assistance.

SHRI B.J. PANDA : My question is : Will the hon. Minister clarify what norms are followed? Is it a fact that in all the cases, when there is a reduction of area, that is not compensated and only reduction of crop is compensated? Would the hon. Minister clarify that?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, the norms are that whenever there is more than 50 per cent loss in crop, the input subsidies are given. But, it is up to the State Government to send us a memorandum and then we depute a team and they decide. In this case, there was no memorandum received from the Government with regard to not sown area.

*517. [The questioner (Shri Harish Rawat) was absent for answer *vide* page..... *infra*.]

*518. [The questioners (Shri V.V. Raghavan and Shri Ramachandra Khuntia) were absent for answer *vide* page.... *infra*.]

*519. [The questioner (Shri Satish Pradhan) was absent for answer *vide* page . . . . *infra*]